



# Department of Justice

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## **ALABAMA MAN SENTENCED FOR ATTEMPTED INTERSTATE ENTICEMENT OF A MINOR AND TRANSPORTATION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

Jacksonville, FL - Today U.S. District Judge Virginia M. Hernandez Covington sentenced Bobby Joe Hibbs, age 57, of Huntsville, Alabama, to 17½ years' imprisonment and a life term of supervised release for attempted interstate enticement of a person whom he believed to be a minor to engage in criminal sexual activity and interstate transportation of child pornography. Hibbs pled guilty to these charges on August 10, 2007. Hibbs was charged in a two count indictment by a federal grand jury in Jacksonville and was arrested just outside Huntsville, Alabama on May 4, 2007. He was transported to the Middle District of Florida for prosecution.

According to court documents, Hibbs began chatting on line with a person he believed to be a 13-year old girl from Florida. In fact the person was an investigator with the CyberCrime Unit from the State of Florida Attorney General's Office. During the next four months, Hibbs sent sexually explicit images of himself and images of child pornography to the investigator. Hibbs then arranged to meet the "13-year old girl" in Jacksonville, Florida. While traveling to Jacksonville, Hibbs was stopped by law enforcement officers in Gunterville, Alabama, and was arrested.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum's CyberCrime Unit. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney D. Rodney Brown.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a national initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information on Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

The Florida Attorney General's Child Predator CyberCrime Unit is a member of the North Florida Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, a federally funded program working nationwide to educate and support law enforcement to stop these crimes, and the FBI Cyber Taskforce in Jacksonville.

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